United Nations A/61/761–S/2007/105

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 17 and 27

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 22 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you the text of an appeal of refugees from Khojaly to the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (see annex).

On the night of 25 to 26 February 1992, as a result of a horrible crime perpetrated by the Armenian armed forces, the town of Khojaly was burned to the ground. A total of 613 people, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly men were mercilessly killed, 1,275 people were taken hostage, while the fate of over 150 others remains unknown.

The remaining residents of Khojaly, who suffered one of the most terrible acts of genocide of the twentieth century, are still convinced that the world community, including the United Nations, will condemn the Armenian military aggression and assist in the restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the return of more than 1 million refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 27, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-24936 (E) 270207

Annex to the letter dated 22 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Appeal of refugees from Khojaly to the Organization of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Khojaly genocide

We, the witnesses of the Khojaly genocide committed in February 1992 in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who miraculously survived the tragedy, once more appeal with high hope to the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and to all the civilized world community, and call for the necessity of rendering a legal and political assessment to the Khojaly genocide.

In order to realize their plan of creating "Great Armenia", Armenians, who built a monument in 1978 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of their migration to Azerbaijan from Iran, pursued a consistent policy of aggression against Azerbaijan in the last two centuries with the assistance of their foreign accomplices and committed such crimes against humanity as terrorism, homicide, deportation and genocide.

Numerous historical documents prove that the millions of Azerbaijanis suffering ethnic cleansing and genocide in the periods 1905-1907, 1918-1920 and 1948-1953 in their historical ethnic territories were murdered en masse or obliged to flee from their native lands.

Finally, Armenian separatism and groundless territorial claims against Azerbaijan were raised again in 1998 and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict started. During 1988-1989, 250,000 Azerbaijanis, to the last man, were deported from their historical ethnic territories in Armenia, with hundreds of civilians brutally killed in the process. Consequently, Armenia became a mono-ethnic country, which was a long-cherished dream of Armenians.

Unfortunately, the former Soviet leadership and the civilized world remained indifferent to the groundless Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that started in 1988, the barbarity of Armenians and the torment of Azerbaijanis. Encouraged by this indifference, Armenians succeeded in committing bloody crimes one after another in Azerbaijan. Twenty per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan, including seven regions around Nagorno-Karabakh, was occupied by Armenian armed forces, more than 1 million Azerbaijanis expelled from native lands, tens of thousands of people killed, disabled or taken hostage. Hundreds of settlements, thousands of houses, education and health institutions, historical-cultural monuments, museums, mosques, temples and cemeteries were destroyed, once more proving Armenian vandalism.

At the beginning of the 1990s, mass slaughter committed by Armenian armed troops against the Azerbaijani population of Karabakh in the villages of Kerkijahan, Mesheli, Koushchular, Karadaghly and Aghdaban, terrorist acts in Baku and other cities, and finally the Khojaly genocide are historical stigma of "suffering and miserable" Armenians.

We bring with regret to the attention of the world community that the Khojaly genocide was another link in the chain of great human calamities of the twentieth century such as Khatyn, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Songmi.

On 26 February 1992, Armenian armed forces, with the direct participation of the 366th Motorized Infantry Regiment of the former Soviet Union located in Khankendi (Stepanakert), attacked Khojaly city (where 7,000 Azerbaijanis were living) from five directions. At that very time, 3,000 people remained in the town. Armenians had been keeping Khojaly under complete siege for the previous four months. The population was in need of food and medicine. There were a number of sick, wounded, aged men, women and children in the town.

Armenians razed to the ground and burned the town by means of the heavy military equipment of the 366th Regiment. Innocent civilians were murdered, with children, women, the elderly and sick being subject to awful torture and mutilation. Armenians committed a very grave historical crime — the Khojaly genocide against the Azerbaijanis at the end of the twentieth century before the eyes of civilized humankind. The aim of this action was the homicide of Khojaly residents. The majority of the residents remained alive only by accident to witness the tragedy.

As a result of this genocide, 613 peaceful residents were murdered and 1,275 taken hostage. The fate of 150 of them is still unknown. More than 1,000 people were disabled by bullet wounds; 83 children, 106 women and 70 elderly people were among the killed; and 78 of the mutilated were minor boys and girls.

As a result of this military-political crime, six families were murdered to the last man, 25 children lost both parents and 130 children lost one parent; 56 men were either burned alive, scalped, tortured, beheaded or blinded, and pregnant women were bayoneted.

It is difficult to believe that this brutality and savageness, without any match in history, was committed by human beings at the end of the twentieth century before the eyes of humankind. But humanity should be aware that the perpetrators of this crime committed against not only Azerbaijanis, but the whole of mankind, are "suffering and miserable" Armenians.

For 15 years, we, the residents of Khojaly, have been living the life of refugees. We appeal to all peaceful peoples and international organizations of the world with heartache mixed with high hope. We do not believe that such authoritative organizations as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as powerful nations are incapable of bringing Armenia, a State which defies international law and human values, to justice and to respect civilized relations between States.

The non-fulfilment of four resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations on the unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan damages the image of this Organization.

We are convinced that the world community, condemning the military aggression of Azerbaijan by Armenia, will assist in the restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the return of more than 1 million refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes and the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh fairly and in a peaceful manner.

The appeal was adopted at the general gathering of refugees from Khojaly, held in Baku on 19 February 2007.

United Nations A/61/762

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 February 2007

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 67
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 26 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the information regarding freedom of religion and belief in the Republic of Uzbekistan (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 67.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

07-24942 (E) 270207 280207

Annex to the letter dated 26 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Freedom of religion and belief in the Republic of Uzbekistan

Currently, 2,222 religious organizations and 16 denominations are active in Uzbekistan. Among the organizations, 2,042 (92 per cent) are Muslim, as 88 per cent of the country's population consider themselves to be followers of Islam.

In addition, Uzbekistan has 164 Christian organizations, eight Jewish communities, six Baha'i communities, one Hare Krishna society and one Buddhist temple.

While there were only 84 mosques in Uzbekistan in 1990, by 1 January 2007, there were 2,029. As at 1 January 2006, 2,016 mosques had been registered, which means that 13 additional mosques have been registered over the past year.

In accordance with the standards of international human rights covenants and agreements concerning freedom of conscience, the legislation of Uzbekistan takes into consideration the basic provisions and requirements of these international instruments and establishes principles and procedures for the implementation of the constitutionally protected freedom of religion and belief.

The Constitution of Uzbekistan guarantees freedom of conscience, the right to establish and join religious organizations, equality before the law and non-interference of the State in the activities of religious organizations.

The Constitution prohibits the establishment of religious associations which foment religious strife and the establishment of religious political parties.

In accordance with the Uzbek Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations Act, freedom of conscience is a constitutionally guaranteed right of citizens to profess any religion or none.

Uzbekistan is a secular State, and the Government of Uzbekistan places no restrictions on religious organizations as to their size or places where they may operate.

Freedom to profess a religion or other convictions is subject only to those restrictions that are necessary for the protection of national security and public order or the life, health, morals, rights and freedoms of other citizens.

Foreign nationals and stateless persons enjoy the same right to freedom of conscience and freedom of belief as Uzbek citizens and are liable under the law for breaches of legislation on freedom of conscience and religious organizations.

Under the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the imposition of religious views by force is not allowed. The Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations Act affirms that the State shall maintain peace and harmony among religious faiths. Activities aimed at converting the adherents of one faith to another

(proselytism) and any other missionary activity are prohibited. Persons found guilty of violating this rule are punishable under the law.

Uzbek citizens are equal before the law, regardless of their religious views. Reference to a citizen's religious views in official documents is prohibited. Any restriction of rights or the establishment of direct or indirect privileges on the basis of religious views, the incitement of strife or hatred, contempt for the feelings of citizens with regard to their religious or atheistic convictions and the desecration of venerated religious and ceremonial sites are punishable by law.

Freedom of belief for Uzbek citizens, as provided for under the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, is realized by extending the same rights and responsibilities to all of the country's religious organizations.

Under the Uzbek Education Act of 29 August 1997, one of the basic principles of State education policy is the secular nature of the education system.

The State education system in the Republic of Uzbekistan is kept separate from religion, and the inclusion of religious subjects in its curricula is not permitted. Every citizen has the right to a secular education, regardless of his or her religious views.

The central governing bodies of religious organizations have the right to establish religious schools to train clergy and the necessary religious personnel.

The Tashkent Islamic University, the Islamic Institute, 10 madrasas, one Orthodox Christian seminary and one Protestant seminary are currently operating in Uzbekistan. In the 2006/07 school year, 124 students are studying at the Tashkent Islamic Institute, 900 at the 10 madrasas, 49 at the Orthodox seminary and 33 at the Protestant seminary.

Under the Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations Act, the central governing bodies of religious organizations are entitled to produce, export, import and distribute religious objects, religious literature and other religious material under the procedure established by law.

If the religious literature was published abroad, it may be shipped and sold after the content of each publication has been reviewed in accordance with the procedure established by national legislation.

In the years following independence, the Koran, Hadith selections from the al-Bukhari collection, the Bible, 16 books of the Old Testament and the entire New Testament, a history of the apostles and other religious literature were translated into Uzbek for the first time.

In late 2004 the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan, in conjunction with the Uzbek Society for the Blind, published the Holy Koran in Braille. Uzbekistan became the third State in the world to carry out such a noble deed. There are some 24,000 blind persons currently living in Uzbekistan. Specialized boarding schools and public libraries and all persons so desiring will be provided with copies of the Koran in Braille.

A Council on Faith Matters has been established under the Committee for Religious Affairs of the Cabinet of Ministers to promote interaction among religious organizations, to assist them in carrying out their activities and to develop joint measures to strengthen interfaith and inter-ethnic peace and harmony. Its

membership consists of the leaders of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan, the Tashkent and Central Asian diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Union of Evangelical Baptist Christian Churches, the Full Gospel Christian Church Centre, the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Jewish religious community of Tashkent.

The religious organizations of Uzbekistan freely celebrate all religious holidays. Thus, with every year, more and more Muslims celebrate Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr, Christians Easter and Christmas, and Jews Passover, Purim and Hanukkah.

By presidential decrees, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha have been declared holidays.

Every year, believers make pilgrimages to holy sites with the extensive support of the Government: Muslims go to Saudi Arabia, Christians to the Russian Federation, Greece and Israel, and Jews to Israel. During the past 15 years, more than 50,000 Uzbek citizens have completed the hajj to Saudi Arabia and pilgrimages to the holy sites of their religions in Israel and the Russian Federation.

United Nations A/61/763–S/2007/108

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
23 February 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 26 February 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 15 to 21 February 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-24974 (E) 270207 280207

Annex to the identical letters dated 26 February 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 15 to 21 February 2007, inclusive

Air violations

At 2114 hours on 19 February 2007 an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Naqurah, heading east, and circling over areas in the South. It then left at 0012 hours on 20 February 2007, over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

At 2200 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh, heading north. It circled over the Riyaq area, then left over Rumaysh at 0200 hours on 20 February 2007.

Between 0800 and 1145 hours on 20 February 2007 an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and circling over areas in the South, whereupon it left over Naqurah.

Between 1758 and 2100 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and circling over areas in the South, then left over Naqurah.

Between 0925 and 1125 hours on 21 February 2007 an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah, heading north. It circled over the southern regions, where it was met with fire from ground anti-aircraft batteries belonging to the Army (LM-12) at the place known as Jinnata, then left Lebanese airspace over Naqurah.

Between 0945 and 1145 hours on the same day, four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over 'Alma al-Sha'b and heading north as far as Rashayya, It then headed towards the sea, circled over areas of the South, Al-Biqa' al-Gharbi (Western Bekaa) and the Shouf mountains, proceeded to a distance of 10 miles out over the sea, then left over the sea off Naqurah.

Between 1350 and 1645 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, flew over the Nabatiyah region and released heat balloons over the town of Nabatiyah and the village of Duwayr.

Between 2017 and 2225 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Al-Bayadah. It circled over the southern regions, then left over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

At 2227 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over 'Alma al-Sha'b, heading north, and after circling over the southern regions, left over 'Alma al-Sha'b at 0017 hours on 22 February 2007.

Sea violations

None.

Field violations

Between 1015 and 1040 hours 15 February 2007 a bulldozer belonging to the Israeli enemy carried out engineering operations involving stagnant water that had collected within occupied Palestinian territory opposite the Kafr Killa — Al-Udaysah road so as to permit the water to flow into Lebanese territory. Accompanying it was a patrol made up of a Hummer and a military jeep. When a number of Lebanese citizens gathered on the Lebanese side, the enemy patrol was reinforced with two Hummers and an additional jeep.

Between 1935 and 2030 hours on 21 February 2007 Israeli enemy forces shined searchlights from Tayyarat position (opposite the village of Yarun) towards the areas surrounding Yarun and Bint Jubayl.

Other Israeli activities

Between 1345 and 1425 hours on 17 February 2007 the sound of movements by tracked vehicles was heard between the Summaqah and Birkat Hasan outposts of the Israeli enemy forces within the occupied Shab`a Farms.

Between 1830 and 1845 hours on 18 February 2007, Israeli enemy forces, from their position at Al-Hadb within occupied Palestinian territory (opposite the village of Yarun), fired four flare shells over the said position.

Between 2000 and 2300 hours on the same day, an Israeli enemy helicopter flew within occupied Palestinian territory (opposite the villages of Mays al-Jabal and Marun al-Ra's).

At 0947 hours on 19 February 2007 a communication was received from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), reporting that the Israeli enemy was carrying out light weapons fire in area E442 within occupied Palestinian territory (opposite Markaba).

Between 1200 and 1230 hours on the same day, two Israeli enemy helicopters overflew the occupied Shab`a Farms.

Between 0730 and 0820 hours on 20 February 2007 the sound of the movement of tracked vehicles was heard between the Ramta and Fashkul posts of the Israeli enemy forces in the occupied Shab`a Farms and Israeli enemy military aircraft flew over the said Farms.

At 1200 hours on the same day a civil engineering machine (Falasha) belonging to the Israeli enemy carried out road maintenance work between the Saliha post and the Avivim barracks, being accompanied by three Hummers (opposite Marun al-Ra's), and a bulldozer worked on the fortification of the Saliha post from the inside. At 1545 hours all the vehicles left, heading for the Avivim barracks.

Between 1215 and 1245 hours on the same day Israeli enemy forces strafed the area around their outpost at Zabdin and Al-Qarn, within the occupied Shab`a Farms, with medium machine-gun fire.

Between 1530 and 1630 hours on the same day, the sound of the movement of tracked vehicles belonging to the Israeli enemy was heard between its two posts at Ramta and Summaqah within the occupied Shab'a Farms. Also heard were a number of intermittent rounds of medium machine-gun fire coming from the said posts.

At 1600 hours on the same day, during a visit by the UNIFIL Commander, General Claudio Graziano, to the Indian unit's Saddanah post, a number of journalists proceeded towards the occupied Shab'a Farms border in order to take some photographs. Israeli enemy forces fired a number of rounds into the air from their Summaqah position within the said Farms, whereupon the journalists immediately left.

Between 1650 and 1700 hours on the same day, in the place known as Labbunah within occupied Palestinian territory (opposite Naqurah), a number of rounds of fire from light weapons were heard and two helicopters belonging to the enemy forces were seen over the said area.

Between 1910 and 1930 hours on the same day, four Israeli enemy helicopters overflew occupied Palestinian territory (opposite Ra's Naqurah).

At 1310 hours on 21 February 2007 an explosion was heard at the place known as Khallat Wardah (opposite the village of 'Ayta al-Sha'b).

At 1240 on the same day, rounds of medium-calibre machine-gun fire were heard from within occupied Palestinian territory, opposite the village of Yarun.